

K-12 EDUCATION

Background Information and Hot Topics

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Constitutional Mandate

“It is the Paramount Duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sect.”

Article 9, Section 2, Washington State Constitution

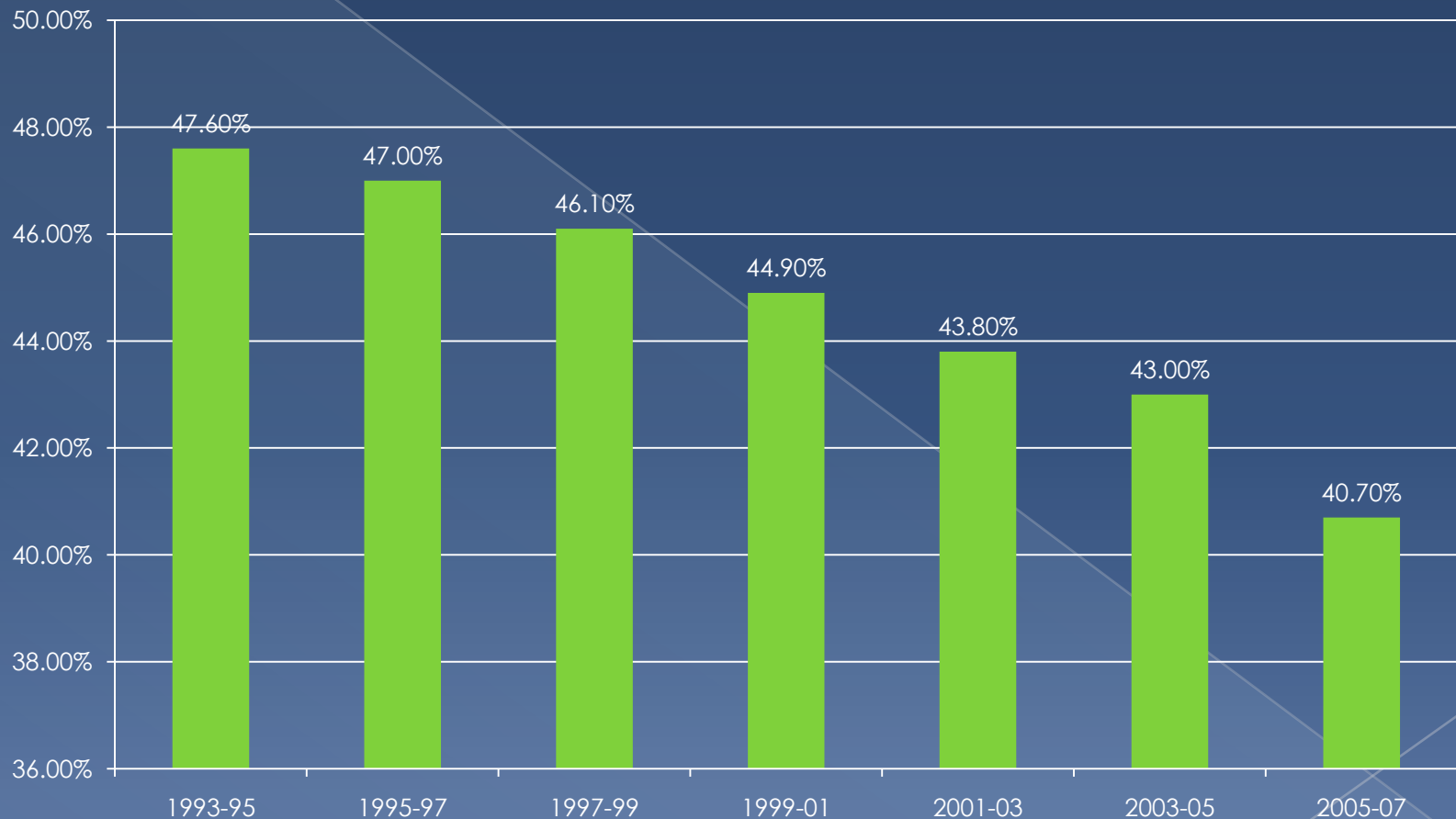
General Overview of WA K-12 Schools

- State Constitution establishes education of all children as state's paramount duty
- \$6.8 billion per year
- 295 school districts
- 1,068,000 school-age children statewide
 - > 973,000 in public schools (91%)
 - > 77,000 in private schools
 - > Approx. 18,000 homeschooled
- 2275 school buildings

State General Fund Spent on K-12 Public Schools: 1993/95-2007-09



Percent of State General Fund Spent on K-12 Public Schools



Sources of School Funding (2006/7)

State: 70.6%

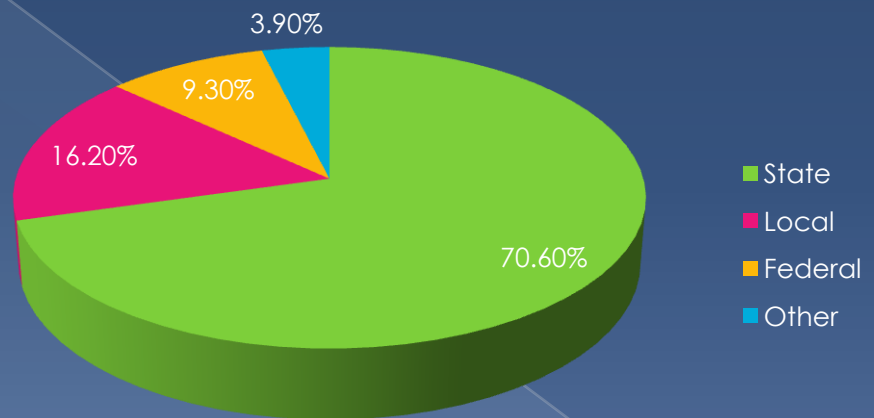
- > Operating
- > Capital

Federal: 9.3%

- > No Child Left Behind
- > Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)

Local: 16.2%

- > Levies



How do Schools Spend the Money?

Teaching	60.6%
Other support services	11.1%
Teaching support	8.5%
Central admin	6.2%
Building admin	6.0%
Transportation	4.1%
Food	3.5%

Per Student & Average Teacher Pay

- In the 2006-07 school year, on a statewide basis, school districts spent **\$8,836 per student**.
- Average Salary for Full Time Teachers
School Year 2006-07
 - > \$48,011 base salary plus
 - > \$7,476 supplemental pay
 - > \$55,487 statewide average total salary

How Does Washington Compare?

- Per student spending
 - > \$9,980, 32nd in nation
 - > National average is \$10,615
- Students enrolled per teacher
 - > 19.0 students per teacher, 5th highest in nation
 - > National average is 15.4
- Teacher average salary levels
 - > \$49,884, 20th in nation
 - > National average is \$52,308

Data from 2007/2008 school year

Source: Rankings & Estimates, National Education Association, Dec. 2008

The Basic Education Act of 1977 defined basic education as:

- 180 days of instruction
- Minimum annual hours of instruction by grade group
- Certain instructional subject offerings
- Minimum staffing ratios

Later added:

Special Education, Learning Assistance Program, Bilingual Education, Institutional Education, and parts of Pupil Transportation.

Basic vs. Non-Basic

● Basic

- General apportionment (mostly staffing ratios and NERC)
- Special education
- Pupil transportation (only to and from school)
- Learning assistance program
- Bilingual education

Total Basic: \$11.0 billion

Non Basic

- I-728 & I 732
- Education Reform
- Learning Improvement days
- Highly Capable
- ESDs
- Food Services
- K-4 enhanced staffing ratio
- Levy Equalization
- State offices/agencies
- Some Skill center activities
- Other

Total non basic: \$2.6 billion

Legislature's "Guiding Principles" for improving Basic Education

- Begin with the end in mind
- Teacher quality matters most
- Structure must be coherent and transparent
- Provide flexibility with accountability
- Rely on the best available information

2009 Issues: Basic Education Funding

- New definition of Basic Education and funding formulas to support that definition
- Expanded minimum instruction hours
- Full-day kindergarten
- “Core 24” credits = “meaningful” high school diploma
- Supplemental instruction for underachieving, non-English proficient, highly capable, and special education students
- Align teacher certification with compensation
- New transportation funding formula
- Steering committee to oversee implementation within districts
- Support for continuous improvement